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INDIA, AUSTRALIA, &c., and for  
PRIVATE RESIDENTS AT THE  
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A Comprehensive and Complete  
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NEWS OF THE FAR EAST  
is given in the  
HONGKONG WEEKLY  
PRESS,  
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CHINA OVERLAND TRADE Envoy,  
Subscription, paid in advance, \$12  
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# Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857

THE  
DIRECTORY & CHRONICLE  
FOR 1907.  
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Small 6.00  
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Hongkong Daily Press Office and  
to the Local Booksellers.

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ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

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## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 8TH, 1908

There is a good deal more than appears on the surface in the carefully planned outcry against the proposed foreign loan for the construction of the Soochow-Ningpo railway. It is, in fact, a recrudescence of the old revolt of the provincials against the central Government, in which the foreign element, though forced into the foreground, plays really but a second part. In this the point at issue bears in its external aspect a remarkable likeness to the dispute of old days over the Lay-Osborn Flotilla. Was it to be Imperial, or under the orders and control of the provincial viceroys? There is little doubt, reviewing the subsequent course of events, that the arrangement between Prince Kung and Mr. H. N. Lay, then Inspector General, was that the fleet intended for imperial purposes was to be under solely imperial control; and that Prince Kung, when the matter was explained to him thoroughly, understood the advantage to the central Government of having such a powerful force at its back in the semi-paternal conflict between provinces and capital. There was never any suspicion in the minds of the British Foreign Office that Mr. Lay's conduct in the affair had been otherwise than perfectly straightforward, or that he had wilfully misrepresented his orders. When, however, Mr. Lay and Captain SHERARD OSBORNE, the officer appointed with the consent of the British Government to take command of the fleet, arrived with the ships

in China, another condition of affairs was seen. The powerful Nanking Viceroy repudiated the whole affair, and insisted on his right to control the ships while within his territorial jurisdiction. Before the departure of the fleet from home, Mr. LAY had drawn up a formal letter of Agreement with Capt. SHERARD OSBORNE in which, amongst other stipulations, it was expressly mentioned that OSBORNE, as Commander in Chief, was to have entire control over all vessels of European construction, as well as native vessels manned by Europeans; that OSBORNE undertook to act upon all orders of the Emperor which might be conveyed direct to LAY; and that OSBORNE engaged not to attend to any orders conveyed through any other channel. This agreement, it seems, was conveyed to Prince Kung in the first instance, and not objected to. The emergency was pressing, and Prince Kung was prepared to agree to anything. Within the year affairs had changed, Kung had retired from his active position as head of the Foreign Office, and a high official, WEN SIANG, had been appointed in his stead. Thanks to Colonel GORDON the Imperial arms had been successful in Kiangnan, and the Viceroy, taking the credit on himself, had become more haughty in his demands. Accordingly a new proposal was made, and LAY was represented as having asked for the appointment of a Commander-in-Chief and Prince Kung was led to write that he had memorialised the Throne that the officer "already appointed by the Governor-General of the Liang Kiang should be appointed Commander of the Fleet, with OSBORNE as Assistant." However open to cavil might have been LAY's first scheme, this counter-proposal was so utterly opposed to anything that could be accepted that it left no choice open for negotiation, and the result was that LAY had to resign, and the Fleet was dismantled. Sir FREDERICK BRUCE, then Minister at Peking, might have helped, but he was no friend to LAY, as his subsequent dispatch shows, and threw in his influence against him. Sir FREDERICK acknowledges that the affair did not fall through foreign intrigues, the other Powers raising no objection, but gives as his explanation—the opposition of the provincial authorities, the reluctance of Peking to assume the responsibility of directing operations, and "above all the alarm and suspicion engendered by the proposals," which would have given excessive power to Mr. LAY.

Now there is up to a certain point considerable resemblance between the position then and the present, but with this essential difference, that Peking has since seen many times how great was the mistake made in weakly yielding to the demands of the provincials, and permitting the rerudescence of the dual administration which had brought the Empire at the time to the verge of destruction. From the merely financial outlook Peking is well content with the railways already built; they have required no heroic effort on the part of the Government to finance; this has been accomplished of the foreign syndicates concerned which have in all cases found the capital sums required, and have arranged for repayment on sufficiently easy terms, so that without expenditure Peking finds itself in possession of a goodly revenue, which is moreover gradually progressing as the amortisation proceeds. More than all from a native point of view, except merely to see to the upkeep of the lines, which Peking is wise enough to see is to its own advantage, the interference of the syndicates is of the very slightest; indeed the control of the lines may be said to rest in nearly every particular in the hands of the native directors, even to a degree disadvantageous to the working of the lines, owing to the lack of experience on the part of the native staffs. Now it is noteworthy in the present contention, that while the Anglo-Chinese Syndicate has all through the controversy been willing to retire on the most reasonable terms, the upholding of the agreement has fallen on the British Minister, who on the subject is perfectly at one with the Chinese Government. The opposition has, in fact, not come from any section of the Chinese Government itself, which has the commonsense to see that it has made a remarkably good bargain not only for itself but for the Empire at large. This, in fact, is what galls SIRENG KUNG-PAO and the other wire-pullers of the pretended patriotic opposition, whose sole object is to get the making of the line into their own hands for the purpose of exploiting it to their own profit. However Peking may incline towards the Syndicate from the merely monetary aspect, we should not be justified in assuming that this is the sole reason that influences in the affair, nor is it fair to China's present statesmen to suggest

that they have no feeling of responsibility for the general well-being of the State. This, however, is what SIRENG KUNG-PAO and his admirers would have us believe. Men like Their Excellencies CHAN and YUAN, who have passed through the provincial furnace, are well aware how much mischief has been wrought by the former indifference of Peking in the general superintendence of inter-provincial affairs, and the consequent weakening of China through being split up into so many practically independent units; and are quite alive to the dangers to be encountered should the control of the railway interest fall into the same state of chaos as did the general government in the first half of the nineteenth century. This is, however, what such mock patriots as SIRENG KUNG-PAO and his associates are intriguing for, and it requires little knowledge of statescraft to comprehend how dangerous to the interests of the nation at large would be a return to the evil days when each petty provincial was a law unto himself, and the power of control from disuse had become practically atrophied. We may learn a lesson as to the necessity of a strong central power from the recent history of the United States, where the Government has lately had to take strong measures to override the conflicting methods of the various states with regard to this very matter of inter-state railways.

Mr. A. H. Ough of Messrs. Leigh and Orange, has been made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Entries for the Hongkong football Challenge Shield will close on Saturday, January 11th, and should be sent in to the Hon. Secy. (Mr. Wishart) before that date.

For stealing \$3 worth of sugar from a godown at Kennedytown Mr. F. A. Hasland yesterday sentenced a coolie, at the Magistracy, to three weeks' imprisonment and six hours' stocks.

The Indian constable charged with obtaining money by false pretences from Naval officers, as reported in our last issue, was yesterday sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment by Mr. Gomperz at the Magistracy.

"It Town" was the piece staged by the Lilliputians at the Theatre Royal last night, and, needless to say, the youngsters afforded those in attendance the same unalloyed amusement which characterised its first production.

The five rasha coolies who were arrested on Monday for riotous behaviour during the strike were charged before Mr. F. A. Hasland at the Police Court yesterday, and each man was bound over in the sum of \$100 to be of good behaviour for twelve months.

Yesterday afternoon, as the three o'clock Peak car was descending the steepest grade between Plantation and Bowen roads, a large dog crossed the rails and was caught by the car which almost overturned. The passengers included several ladies who were very much frightened by the incident. The car wheels cut right through the dog, killing it instantly.

An organ recital given by Mr. Denman in St. John's Cathedral last evening was very largely attended and much enjoyed. Mr. Fuller played an Allegro (Concerto in D minor) by Handel; a Pastoral by Wely, Wagner's Vorspiel (Parafail), and an Allegro Maestoso composed locally, by Mr. James Orange. Between the organ performances carols were sung by eight members of the Cathedral choir.

The Y. M. C. A. Literary and Debating Society sat "in Parliament" for the first time on Monday night. Mr. G. Piercy was appointed Speaker and Capt. T. P. Hall Deputy Speaker. The "King's Speech" was read. This, after commenting favourably upon the present satisfactory state of the Colony, foreshadowed the introduction of eight measures for the consideration of the House. The Leader of the Opposition freely criticised the programme and considered that there were matters of greater importance requiring the attention of the House than those it was intended to put before them. The premier replied briefly, and ably defended the Government policy. The motion was put to the House, and carried. The Hon. Member for Stonewall introduced a Bill to provide for improving the defences of the Colony by compelling every male British subject (European) between the ages of 18 and 35 years to join an auxiliary force to have at least two weeks military training each year. The Opposition complained that no notice had been given and that the Bill had been intentionally sprung upon them in consequence of which they were unprepared, but enquired if it was intended to dispense with the services of the existing garrison and navy. In reply the Government stated that this was obviously not their idea which was to strengthen rather than to diminish the defences of the colony. The House divided on an adjournment of the first reading which resulted in a majority for the Government, and the Bill passed the first reading. The Hon. Members for Aberdeen, Kowloon South, Stanley and Kowloon North supported the Government while the Hon. Members for Victoria North, West Point, Pinewood and Victoria West spoke from the opposition benches. The Hon. Member for Gap Rock spoke as an independent. [Our representative in the Press Gallery at this session was Mr. T. Fuller.]

There will be a practice game on the Club ground to-morrow at 4:45 p.m. sharp, when it is hoped that a good number will participate.

On Friday, 10th inst., the Club playing in colours, will oppose a Naval team got up by Lt. Mullins, R.M.L.I., on the Club ground, at 4:45 p.m. sharp.

## SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, January 7th.

## IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

## CLAIM FOR RICE.

The case concluded in which the Cheung Hing firm of rice merchants sued the Wo On, So Chan firm, traders, to recover \$118. 18 due for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson) appeared for the plaintiff, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Johnson (of Messrs. Denys and Bowley) for the defendant.

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, remarking that they could not be presumed to know the limitations of the godown keeper who had been allowed to purchase rice before, and on which purchase payment had been made.

## AN ABSCONDER CAPTURED.

Jesu Maria de Souza, for whose arrest a warrant has been out for sometime, was yesterday brought back to the Colony by Detective-Sergeant Hasland, and was charged before Mr. F. A. Hasland at the Police Court with larceny as a bailee. In February, 1905, the defendant was employed in the Hongkong branch of the Indo-China Bank. One day he was given some registered letters, containing altogether \$1500, to post. The defendant it appears, procured some similar envelopes put blank paper in each, addressed them as the original envelopes were addressed, and posted them. With the money which he extracted from the letters he was told to post, he absconded. The Hongkong police, however, traced him to Shanghai where he was detained pending the arrival of Detective-Sergeant Hasland. The detective had no difficulty in recognising Souza, who was handed over to him and brought safely to Hongkong. When he heard the evidence yesterday, his Worship sentenced the defendant to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

## VILLAGE ELTERS MURDERED.

The story of one of those crimes for which China is so notorious was told to Mr. F. A. Hasland at the Police Court yesterday afternoon, when Mr. G. E. Morrell, of the Crown Solicitor's office, on behalf of the Chinese Government applied for the extradition of a native on a charge of armed robbery. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow) represented the defendant.

Mr. Morrell informed his Worship that the accused was charged with armed robbery at Kwei Ling in the Waihau Prefecture. It appeared that the elder of this village had reported the names of all the lawless characters in their district to the authorities, and the defendant's name was included in the list. In consequence, the lawless class threatened to exterminate the elder. On the 9th May, 1906, four elders started off to pay respect to the ancestral tablets in a neighbouring village called Wong Yuen. They proceeded on the journey on foot, a son of one of the elders and a coolie following them, and carrying the food trays. When they got to Kwei Ling, which was half way between the two villages, four men, of whom the defendant was said to be one, jumped from an ambush and seized the elder. When the coolies in the rear saw this they dropped their trays, and ran. The robbers pursued them for a distance, but they succeeded in making their escape. They collected help and returned to the place where the robbers had surprised the party. There they found the four dead bodies of the elders, and on returning to the village gave the names of the robbers. In consequence of that report the defendant was arrested in Hongkong.

His Worship—These four men were armed, and were seen to attack the elders?

Mr. Morrell—They all carried revolvers, and were seen to jump out on the four elders and shoot them.

Evidence was then called, and the hearing adjourned.

## CANTON-KOWLOON DEBT TURES.

The *Globe* says:—Those who subscribe to the Canton-Kowloon Railway issue may care to know that they can exchange their scrip receipts for the bonds themselves at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. These 5 per cent bonds have gone very widely into the hands of small investors, and are a security which are never likely to provide the smallest ground for anxiety. The last surveys are now being made, and the line when completed will have a length of 125 miles. The last 21 miles beyond the frontier are in British territory, and this section is being constructed by the Government of Hongkong. This is one of three railways now being laid down under the auspices of the British and Chinese Corporation.

The Canton-Kowloon bonds at 98-99 give a

return of 25 1/2 per cent, which is a trifle

more than other Chinese railway issues known to the London Stock Exchange.

The security appears quite as ample in this case as in the others, and the variation in yield is merely

traceable to popular whim.

The Imperial Railway loan at 93-100 yields 5 per cent, and

the Nanking loan about the same.

A comparison of quotations will show that the standing

of the various Chinese railway loans is as good

as, or better than, that of many South

American Railway issues.

## HOCKEY.

There will be a practice game on the Club ground to-morrow at 4:45 p.m. sharp, when it is hoped that a good number will participate.

On Friday, 10th inst., the Club playing in

colours, will oppose a Naval team got up by

Lt. Mullins, R.M.L.I., on the Club ground,

at 4:45 p.m. sharp.

## HOCKEY.

How to be BEAUTIFUL—Keep your complexion—Mrs. Ellers' Crème Charnante, Lait Charnant and Special Skin Tonic and Pondre Charnant will enable you to do it. Her Specialities for the Skin are the study of a lifetime. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Sole Agents for

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

on Jan. 7th at the Board Room. The Hon.

Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Vice-President), Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brown (Registrar-General), Captain Lyons (Captain Superintendent of Police), Colonel Martin, R.A.M.C., Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. Lau Cho-pak, Mr. Fung Wa-chun and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

## NEW MEMBER.

The PRESIDENT—Before commencing the business of the meeting I wish to introduce to you Colonel Martin, the new P.M.O. and on your behalf to welcome him as a member of the Board.

## THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

The following letter was read from Messrs. Palmer and Turner applying for modifications of section 180 (a) and 188 (5) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903:—

Dear Sirs.—Herewith we submit plans showing the proposed manner of rebuilding the southern portion of the Hongkong Hotel. On June 29, 1905, we were informed by the Assistant Secretary of the Sanitary Board that the Governor-in-Council granted a modification of the requirements of section 180 (a) and 188 (5) of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903, in accordance with sketch plans we had submitted for approval just previously. The height of the building as now proposed is the same as shown on the plans then submitted. We should be glad to know if we may consider if the modification of the section 188 (5) as already obtained is still valid. As regards section 180 (a) the arrangement of the new plan has been considerably altered. We are instructed to apply to the Sanitary Board to recommend a modification of this section so as to allow of the open spaces on the ground and first floors being curtailed below the requirements of the Ordinance as shown in the accompanying plans. We beg to point out that the ground floor is not to be used at all for sleeping purposes. The frontage of the block is occupied entirely by shops which are well lighted and ventilated from the front and (with the exception of one shop) from the back. The rest of this floor is to be used as a godown, store, baggage, boiler and engine room, the portion of the yard deemed to be covered over, for the use of receiving and unpacking goods. The first floor with the exception of one bedroom attached to the private suite is not to be used for sleeping purposes. The other room comprising reading, smoking, billiard, and bar rooms are all well lighted and ventilated. The cloak and sewing rooms are to be ten feet in height and the portion shown as a covered yard is required as was in use. The other upper floors are utilized for bedrooms and the open space for each floor is considerably in excess of the requirements of the Ordinance. All the bedrooms have been arranged as far as possible so as to get thorough ventilation from the air spaces both back and front, and we think the Board will recognise that the arrangement of the new plan is an improvement on the plan which was sanctioned in 1905. The area of the building on each floor and the area of the open and unobstructed spaces is the same as marked on the plan.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH minutes

—I recommend the plans be approved as far as they concern the Board.

Mr. HOOPER—I agree with the Medical Officer of Health.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Is there more air space or less than was approved in 1905?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH submitted a table showing that the open air spaces in 19.5 amounted to 29,380 square feet, and on the new plan it amounted to 31,206 square feet.

The PRESIDENT moved that the modifications be granted subject to the approval of the Governor-in-Council.

Mr. HOOPER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

## OUR WATER.

The report of Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, on samples of water from the Kowloon, Tytam and Pokfulam services showed that in each case there was no sewage and the water was of excellent quality.

## MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The mortality returns for the week ended December 7 showed that there were 136 deaths, being 21.5 per 1,000 of the whole Colony, as against 23.5 for the previous week and 22.3 for the corresponding period last year. Of the deaths 34 were

## THRILLING STORY OF CASTAWAYS.

TERrible Privations of Seamen.

One of those tales of the sea, unique in the realm of romance, comes from New Zealand, and is invested with local interest by reason of the fact that a brother of Mr. H. Eyre, the manager of Messrs. Wm. Powell, Ltd., was one of the crew of the wreck. The four-masted barque "Dundonald," of 2115 tons, sailed from Sydney for Falmouth on February 17th last year. On the morning of March 7th, at 12.30 p.m., the ship struck on the precipitous cliffs of Disappointment Island, a bleak and barren island to the west of Auckland Island, and a place where many a good ship has been driven by mountainous seas on to the cruel rocks. In the case of the "Dundonald," when the vessel struck, a heavy sea swept the crew overboard, and twelve of the unfortunate men, including the captain and his son, were drowned. Disappointment Island! The place is well named. It has been the last port of call for many seamen, and it was a cheerless haven for the survivors of this wreck. The mate of the "Dundonald," Jabez Potor, worn out with fatigue, and disappointed with the discovery that the island was not one in which a depot was situated, died after a fortnight.

The remainder of the crew, fifteen all told, spent seven months on the Island of Disappointment, during which time they endured terrible privations, and as they scanned the seascape day by day for a friendly sail without success, must have realised fully the meaning of the proverb, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." During their stay on the island the seamen lived on the young mollyhawks [penguins?] and the stems of plants. Later, when the birds migrated, seals came along, and these were clubbed and provided food and clothing.

A month succeeded month, and no vessel came into sight, the castaways decided to try to reach the main Auckland Island. They made a canvas boat, seven feet long, pieces of canvas being sewn together for the necessary covering. The needles the seamen used were made of birds' bones. When the frail skiff was ready for sea some of the seamen set sail for the main Auckland Islands, the nearest about five miles distant in search of provisions. After an absence of seven days, in which trip they had been unsuccessful, they returned to their comrades. A second attempt was made later, and after terrible difficulties they succeeded in reaching the depot, where the story of their adventures was told. The boat provided for castaways was then scoured, and the sailors faced the heavy sea once more to rescue their comrades. They reached the island which had been their dreary home for so many long months, the remainder of the crew were shipped, and all arrived safely at the depot, where they remained until the arrival of the New Zealand Government steamer "Hinemos," by which vessel they were taken on to Auckland.

The survivors are: M'Lachlan, second mate; Kundersen, third mate; Eyre, Walters, Jule, Finley, Santing, Herman and Protz, A. B.; Ellis, Peal, Stewart, Grattan, ordinary seamen; Ivey, deck boy; Roberts, cabin boy.

Those drowned were J. Thorburn, captain; his son, J. Thorburn, jun.; W. E. Smith, steward; E. Lee, carpenter; T. Crawford, sailmaker; J. Cromarty, deck boy; Hallsworth, Anderson, Lagerblom, Lowe, Navarat and Watson, A. B.

Other disasters on the Auckland Island include the wreck of the French barque "Anjon" in February, 1895; the brig "Faton" and schooner "Invercauld" in 1864; the ship "Derry Castle" in 1887; the barque "Compadre" in 1891; and the ship "Stoneligh" in 1895. A notable disaster was the loss of the "General Grant," an American vessel, in the year 1866. She ran into a cave about 250 yards long. She had a large number of passengers on board, 63 of whom were drowned. On November 21st, 1867, ten survivors were rescued by a brig. Others tried to reach New Zealand in a small boat, but were never heard of again. Altogether 80 lives were lost in the wreck. Many attempts have since been made to recover some boxes of gold which were on board when the ship went down.

Mr. Eyre has not yet heard from his brother, but his people at home have written him that they have received a cable from the young sailor, stating that he is in the best of health.

**COTTON STRIKE PROBABLE.**

At the beginning of December, a Manchester correspondent wrote: "It looks as if hardly anything can prevent a strike in connection with the fine issue cotton wages question in Oldham and district. Last week's joint meeting of masters and men have rather aggravated the relations between the two sides as compared with the position of affairs that existed when the President of the Board of Trade intervened about ten days ago. The fact is the employers are getting unconcerned at the prospects of a stoppage of machinery, there being in their view so many cases of trouble with the work people at the present time. The masters allege that in several instances the requests of the hands through their officials are unreasonable. To-morrow (Tuesday) is the last day for a reply to the operatives' ultimatum of a general advance of 10 per cent in the counts above 60s. The masters are prepared to go as far as five. It remains to be seen what will be decided upon. Lancashire spinners as a whole are losing ground, not only in shipping numbers, but in what are known as Bolton counts. The yarn demand has fallen off. There is not so much pressure for deliveries, and supplies are backing up in first hands. There is some home consumption being lessened by manufacturers allowing loans to stand idle."

A meeting of Burnley manufacturers is to be held, probably this week, to discuss the matter of running short time. Concerted action will be very difficult to arrange, as the point of rent and turning has to be adjusted. Short hours in individual cases are sure to be adopted. The prospects for Christmas in the staple trade of Lancashire are certainly poor, some authorities believing we shall have a bad winter, and that the spell of good trade is showing definite signs of passing away.

## HOME AND CHINA AFFAIRS.

(FROM OUR COKE SPONDENT.)

London, December 6th.

The United States has this week provided most of the Anglo-Saxon interest in Oriental matters. The news that came out suddenly in Washington on Tuesday that Viscount Aoki was to return within a fortnight to Tokyo and had presented his letters of recall set everybody guessing, and of course we had sensational headlines on both sides of the Atlantic as to strained relations between America and Japan over the immigration difficulty on the Pacific coast. Since then the Japanese Ambassador in Washington has himself explained that he goes merely to personally discuss matters under negotiation between his country and the United States, immigration being only one of the questions. He declares that his going has no untoward significance and hints that the recall is on his own suggestion.

Quite so, but I doubt if that is all the truth. As a matter of fact Viscount Aoki has not quite been a good fit in his position at Washington. He is old and has less adaptability to the peculiar atmosphere of the American capital than before a diplomat there, and he had not been at his post long before he gained the name of being peevish and irascible. He is said to have exceeded the spirit of his instructions from time to time and misandemissions have in consequence arisen that have taken all the skill of the statesmen in Tokyo to clear up.

Neither in Tokyo nor in Washington is his handling of the negotiations concerning this immigration question regarded with much approval, so he is not likely to reappear at Washington again. Japan, according to my official informant, is extremely anxious to meet the United States under the best conditions at this time, for the interests of the two countries are rapidly converging in the Pacific to a point where a false step might be disastrous. Thus, while the good work accomplished by Viscount Aoki is not minimised, it is practically certain that he will be succeeded by a more alert diplomat with characteristics based on a more cosmopolitan training.

**JAPANESE IN CANADA.**

Again in Canada, we have reason to be thankful that the head of affairs is a level headed statesman with a long eye for effects. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's rebuke to the Opposition leader for augmenting the agitation against Oriental labour is warmly approved by a large section of Canadians and by commercial magnates here, for it is recognised that there should be some rational settlement, on a basis of restriction, of the present trouble, and after that there is a great field for Canadian trade in the Far East.

What gives the Opposition in Canada an impetus in their agitation is the fact that in Toronto and other cities there is just now a gathering crowd of unemployed, living on relief distributions, and the winter is looked forward to with misgiving. There are white workers, and the labour agitators are pouting the contrast between the abundance of white labour in the cities of the East of Canada, and the demand of employers for Oriental cheap labour in the West. Of course the bulk of the Europeans now stranded in Toronto and elsewhere are part of the rush of immigrants from Bulgaria and the Balkans—chiefly—which reached Canada on the tail end of the late harvest. They did not earn enough to help them to drag through the winter and so make it possible to await the full employment of the warm months next year. Canada is in the transition stage. She is developing and needs thousands of workers, particularly in agriculture in summer; then when the hard weather comes the work is restricted, and Canada has not yet developed enough winter work for all these men, hence the winter is not easy to adjust on an all-the-year-round basis.

**DOWNING STREET BUSY.**

I am given to understand that this Asiatic labour question is causing anxiety in Downing Street as well as in Washington and Ottawa. It is stated on good authority that it is one of several matters now under discussion, and it may be found necessary, to complete arrangements for the Japanese Ambassador here, Baron Komura, to pay a visit to Tokyo early in the year. I hear that agreements are aimed at between Japan and America, and both Great Britain and a Continental power are interested in other agreements with Japan under discussion. The correspondence will have proceeded sufficiently far by the end of this month to decide whether it is advisable to have Baron Komura in Tokyo to consult with the Government there in respect to the final details of the agreements.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**

The long message sent by President Roosevelt to Congress on Tuesday is mainly interesting also for its Far Eastern relations, because so far as it touches American affairs it is obscure, as to present evils in finance and commerce, and for the rest it is a sort of window-dressing for the Republican party show in next year's Presidential elections. The demand for more battleships, coaling stations, docks and coast fortifications in the Pacific, and the advocacy of periodical naval tours in both oceans—facilitated by the future completion of the Panama Canal—indicates how clearly the President sees the Japanese and Americans developing a closeness of touch in the Pacific that may be fruitful for great power if combined in friendship, or may be productive of everlasting trouble if dragon's teeth are sown. It is this part of the message that requires interest here.

British educationalists also think that the President has been keeping a close eye on British doings, for he has taken a leaf out of the book of the British committee formed by the China Association and the China Society to attract Chinese students to these shores. Evidently the President wants to imbue that country with it than

Eastern students with something of the American spirit; for he is anxious for concerted action to induce the students from China to go to American universities.

This strangely worded paragraph headed "Foreign Affairs" is also worthy of note: "In foreign affairs this country's steady policy is to behave toward other nations as a strong and self respecting man should behave toward the other men with whom he is brought in contact. In other words, our aim is disinterestedly to help other nations where such help can be wisely given without the appearance of meddling with what does not concern us; to be careful not as a good neighbour; and at the same time, in good-natured fashion, to make it evident that we do not intend to be imposed upon."

Surely as good a way of setting up a bluff to Japan and at the same time throwing a sop to American Imperialists as could have been devised.

## FALSE DEDUCTIONS.

The papers are so ready to jump to the conclusion that trouble is looming in China that it is no wonder that when it was announced that the 2nd Cameron Highlanders were ordered to go from Pretoria to North China, some of the wisecracks of yellow tendencies should see danger streaks all over the East. Therefore the authorities at the War Office have issued a calming announcement to the effect that it is an ordinary trooping movement and there is no knowledge of the reported agreements among the Powers to increase the strength of the garrisons in North China.

## WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Mr. F. J. Cross, who is employed by the Fiji Government, and has been here consulting the Colonial Office as to the project to connect Canada and Australia by wireless telegraphy, states that he and his colleagues are convinced that the plan is feasible by means of a wireless midway station at Fiji. The chain of the wireless connection will run from Vancouver to Fanning Island, about four thousand miles, thence to Samoa, Fiji, Ellis, New Zealand and finally Australia.

## A SHIPPING MYSTERY.

There is a mystery at Barry Dock, over the crew of the steamship "Camel," brought in by a Chinese crew a fortnight ago. There was apparently a concerted plan among the Chinese, for they suddenly vanished, leaving no trace, and without drawing the money due to them or taking their effects away. As much as twenty pounds was due to some of them. Another crew has had to be picked up in London and shipped under police guard to prevent surprises of an unwelcome nature.

## THE OFFICIAL SECRET.

I hear that a new rule has been introduced to a Government office where literary activity has been notable for many years. It is now ordered that no official shall publish a book of any kind without the permission of the Permanent Under-Secretary. Some of the officials have produced books bearing on the science of their work, and it is this particular side of literature that, I fancy, raises the ire of the permanent official. Fancy having any notion of the science of your work in a government office, anyway!

The question of training, as a matter of fact, waits closer consideration than its rivals. I believe first division clerks are sent from time to time to the Crown Colonies from the Colonial Office in connection with the study of vexed questions but that is as far as the idea goes. I have heard that when Sir Frederick Lugard was Commissioner for Nigeria he wanted to reverse the order of things and nearly persuaded Mr. Lyttleton to agree to his spending part of the year in Nigeria and part in Downing Street as the adviser of the Colonial Office, but the suggestion finally fell through.

## REVIEWER'S JEALOUSY.

The message sent by German official hands, and apparently approved by the Kaiser himself to the "Manchester Dispatch," the brightest morning paper outside—and perhaps inside—London, has caused a good deal of comment, and though Reuter has denied its authenticity, the honour so far as with the "Dispatch," for it prints a facsimile of the message with corrections marked, so it claims, by the German Embassy. The Kaiser is all for peace in the message, though he wants a stronger navy as part of the development of his country and the development of German colonies. He denies that Germany has any designs on any of his neighbours, but he shows that he means to develop the colonies to the utmost. "It is true," he says, "that we started our Colonial policy only after the best countries for colonization were in the hands of other nations. But that cannot be helped. As we cannot get the very best, we must be satisfied with the best of what is left. After all, we can do with the overseas possessions we have got, our colonies will become very valuable by German industry, German energy, and German perseverance, only we should not act like children who stick beans in the ground and go the next day to see if the plant is growing."

Of England and other nations the Kaiser speaks in terms of cordiality. Probably the German Embassy wanted to minimise the message after it had been given, for the London correspondent of the "Dispatch" assures me that he obtained the statement himself through the German Ambassador and it was at the instance of the Ambassador that it was submitted to the Kaiser, subject to corrections and sent back.

The Kaiser, by the way, is very greatly benefited by his stay. His boariness has gone and he is in excellent spirits. When he leaves for Holland and Germany in a week or so he will be in much better form to deal with state affairs than he was when he came. He is a great favourite in Hampshire, and on Saturday he entertained the local schoolchildren to tea, himself cutting a monster cake made by the chef at Highcliffe Castle for the occasion. There are still rumours abroad that his throat has more the matter with it than

more boariness, but official denials appear regularly that there is any truth in the stories and declare that no operation is being considered for his nose, his ear, or his throat. One thing which is cheering him is the victory his henchman, Count Buelow, has won in the Reichstag by owing the "block" parties into unity with the Government, on a Buelow vote, and the Kaiser quite as much as the actual result.

## PERSONAL ITEMS.

Personal items that have come to my notice include the following. Mr. Myles Valentine Blake, second son of Mr. W. V. Blake McGrath of 75 Lancaster Gate, has become engaged to Miss Margaret Plumer, second daughter of Mr. James Johnstone Kewell of Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, and grand daughter of the late Sir Harry Parkes, former minister to Japan and China.

Brevet Colonel G. Wright, Commanding the Royal Artillery, Straits Settlements, has been appointed a member of the Artillery committee of the War Office.

The death of Mr. James Duncan-Campbell, C.M.G., on Tuesday at Claricards Gardens, W., removes one well known in the China service. He was formerly connected with the Treasury and Audit Office in Downing Street, but in 1869 he was allowed to resign and take up the duties of Secretary and Auditor to the Inspectorate-General of the Chinese Imperial Customs in Peking. He subsequently served as special commissioner for China in Europe, and organized the London office of the Inspectorate-General. He was concerned as Chinese special commissioner in the treaty of peace of 1885 between France and China, and the treaty of 1887 between Portugal and China. In 1885 he was made C.M.G. and received many marks of approval from the Chinese and British Governments.

Another notable death has been that of Mario Raggi the sculptor at the age of eighty-six. He died in Surrey after a life full of notable work. He did statues and busts of many well known people here but, I believe, he regarded the work he did for the Jubilee Memorial in Hongkong as his chief effort.

## SOCIAL CHINESE.

Many curious parallels between the Western and the Chinese were pointed out by the Rev. George Owen in his lecture before the China Society at Carlton Hall last night on "The Social Life of the Chinese." Sir J. McLeavy Brown presided. Mr. Owen at the outset mentioned that the average Chinese is one of the most sociable persons in the world.

He had a faculty for friendship, and his friendships took up the greater portion of his life. The New Year celebrations gave him the best opportunities for realising how large his circle of acquaintances was, for during the fifteen days' holiday he was in the habit of calling on them all. But if during this period he had any spare time on his hands, Mr. Owen regretfully had to admit that the old adage about Satan finding work was true, and the time was spent mainly in gambling. Usually the previous year's savings were lost and the Chinese were such inveterate gamblers that they did not desist until their clothes had almost all gone also. But Mr. Ivan Chang the genial secretary of the Society in commenting on the speech later in the evening said that although gambling was condemned by eastern philosophers and abominated by religion just as in the West, yet it certainly bore the authority of Confucius for that philosophers said "He who has nothing to do had far better engage in gambling and chess than in idleness."

The Chinese ladies like those in the West, according to Mr. Owen, are not altogether free from the vice. Chinese ladies like their rubber at bridge. Mr. Owen proceeded to comment on the Chinese passion for theatricals and the fact that the stage was usually the front entrance to the Temple. Another social custom of the Chinese commented upon was the exclusion of women from almost all the social functions, and the fact that at no time did the two sexes publicly mix at these meetings. The reason for this is Mr. Owen did not profess to know, and he left it an open question whether Chinese women were too charming and demoralising, or too ugly and uninteresting.

Eating, said Mr. Owen, appeared to be the basis of all Chinese social intercourse; whether it be a wedding, a funeral, the healing of a feud or the making of a fresh acquaintance, a meal had to enter into the question. A Chinese song said "Happily we will drink and we won't retire until the wine is gone," an almost exact equivalent, as the lecturer pointed out, of the Anglo-Saxon chorus "We won't go home till morning."

Another curious parallel was the Chinese custom at weddings of the guests contributing toward their own entertainment, their contributions varying according to the receipt of past favours and their expectations in the future. It seemed also that China had organisational corresponding closely to English slate and goose clubs. These existed for the purpose of helping toward the cost of funerals, weddings, and other purposes for which funds were needed.

Mr. Owen finished up by commenting on the way in which England and the Baltic provinces made progress daily, and we would be much mistaken if we believed that we should be received there with open arms. B-sides, even if we could conquer the Baltic provinces it would become for us nothing more than a matter of permanent difficulty. The extension of our East frontier would put us in a worse strategical position than now. Our position as regards Russia itself would become untenable. And this would not be the worst.

We would make Russia our permanent and irreconcilable enemy. We should have to fight Russia, which would observe very likely the same military tactics against us which the Russians practised against Napoleon during the war of 1812. No! We should never think of such conquest! We need Russia, and Russia needs us."

Mention was then made of Anglo-German relations. The Kaiser became very animated.

"I am glad," his Majesty said, "to see the quarrels in the Press of these two countries ended. We do not want to take anything from England; and England cannot take nor even wish to take anything from us. England and Germany have therefore every reason to hold together and to help each other as long as the vital interests of the nations do not force the Government into controversy. What difficulty could possibly arise between England and Germany which would be incapable of a friendly and amicable settlement?"

"Besides our blood relation to England, we have every interest to see England strong and powerful. We would feel ourselves very soon weakened by England. A German statesman who would go to war with England for the sake of getting perhaps a little colony from Great Britain—and that would be all we would expect even after a victorious war—would not deserve his place at the helm of the Empire."

"No," repeated his Majesty with great force, "we want nothing of this sort; all we want is peace and again peace to develop our commerce, our industry, and our national culture!"

The J.-G.-J. Linj str. *Tsikini* left Moji via Amoy for this port on the 6th inst., and may be expected here on or about the 12th inst.

The H.A.L. str. *Aragon* left Nagasaki on the 7th inst. at 10 a.m., and may be expected here on the 12th inst.

The H.A.L. str. *Sazoria* left Singapore on the 8th inst. at 5 p.m., and may be expected here on the 13th inst.

The C.P.R. str. *Empress of Japan* arrived at Vancouver at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 6th inst.

The C.P.R. str. *Empress of China* arrived at Vancouver at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 6th inst.

## TANSAN.

BOTTLED AT THE FAMOUS TAKARADZKA SPRING

BY THE CLIFFORD WILKINSON TANSAN CO., KOBE.

Purifying Acidity, and Deliciously Refreshing Tablewater.

Relieving Gout, Promoting Digestion.

Giving Tone to the Whole.

AMPUTATION OF HIS REMAINING LEG.

Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, who for thirty years ruled the London Fire Brigade, and was so popular a figure, as "Captain Shaw" that he inspired a song in "Isolaine," has, at the age of seventy-eight undergone an operation necessitating the amputation of his remaining leg. Nine years ago his other limb was amputated. And yet so marvellous a vitality is possessed by Sir Eyre Massey Shaw that he was stated to be "well on the way to recovery" when the mail left.







PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL  
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL	REMARKS.
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	PALAWAN	Noon, 8th Jan.	Freight and Passage.
SHANGHAI	DEVANHA	About 10th Jan.	Freight and Passage.
LONDON via USUAL PORTS	DELHI	Noon, 11th Jan.	See Special Advertisements.
LONDON and ANTWERP	NILE	About 15th Jan.	Freight and Passage.

For further Particulars, apply to

E. A. HEWEITT,  
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 8th January, 1908

## CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	"ICHANG"	On 8th Jan., 4 P.M.
YOKOHAMA and KOBE	"CHINGTU"	On 8th Jan., Noon.
HOKHOU and HAIPHONG	"SINGAN"	On 9th Jan., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YUNNAN"	On 9th Jan., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SHACHSING"	On 14th Jan., 4 P.M.
MANILA	"SEAN"	On 14th Jan., 4 P.M.
CEBU and ILOILO	"SUNGKUANG"	On 15th Jan., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YOWCHOW"	On 16th Jan., 4 P.M.
CEBU and ILOILO	"KAIFONG"	On 21st Jan., 4 P.M.
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, PORT DARWIN, THURSDAY ISLAND, COOK TOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY, HOBART, LAUNCESTON, NEW ZEALAND, MELBOURNE, ADELAIDE, and PERTH	"CHINGTU"	On 1st Febr., 4 P.M.
• The attention of Passengers is directed to the superior accommodation offered by these steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light. Unrivalled Table. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.		
• Taking Cargo on through bills of lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.		
• Taking Cargo and Passengers at through rates of all New Zealand Ports and other Australian Ports.		
REDUCED SALOON FARES, SINGLE AND RETURN, TO MANILA AND AUSTRALIAN PORTS.	BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, AGENTS.	Hongkong, 8th January, 1908.
For Freight or Passage, apply to		

## NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD. BREMEN. IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHPORT, ANTWERP and BREMEN	"PRINZ EITEL FRIEDRICH"	Wednesday 15th Jan., at Noon.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKOHAMA	"PRINZ HEINRICH"	About Wednesday, 15th January.
MANILA, NEWGUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE	"PRINZ WALDEMAR"	Thursday, 30th Jan., at Noon.
KUDAT and SANDAKAN	"BOEREO"	Middle of January.
For further Particulars, apply to	Capt. F. SEMBLL	

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.  
MELCHERS & CO.

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG &amp; CHINA. 5

Hongkong, 8th January, 1908.

## OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN HONGKONG, SOUTH CHINA COAST PORTS AND FORMOSA.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	THE CO'S. S.	LEAVING
SHANGHAI via SWATOW, ("SOSHU MARU") AMOY AND FOOCHOW	THURSDAY, 9th Jan., at 9 A.M.	
• These Steamers have excellent accommodation for First and Second Class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with electric light. First-class Saloon Amidships. Unrivalled Table.		
• Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports.		
For Freight, Passage, and further information, apply at the Company's local Branch Office, Second Floor, No. 1, Queen's Buildings.		

Hongkong, 7th January, 1908.

T. ARIMA, Manager.

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EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD., COPENHAGEN, SINGAPORE, BANGKOK & SHANGHAI.  
RUSSIAN EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD., ST. PETERSBURG & VLADIVOSTOK.  
SWEDISH EAST ASIATIC CO., LTD., GOTHENBURG.

## PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG. SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMERS	DATE OF SAILING.
SHANGHAI, YOKOHAMA and KOBE	"PETRONIA"	On 10th January.
MARSEILLES, HAVRE and COPENHAGEN	"SIAM"	Middle of January.

For Further Particulars, apply to

Hongkong, 1st January, 1908.

MELCHERS &amp; CO.

AGENTS.

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## JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN

REGULAR THREE-WEEKLY SERVICE BETWEEN

JAVA, CHINA AND JAPAN.

STEAMER	FROM	EXPECTED ON OR ABOUT	WILL LEAVE FOR	ON OR ABOUT
TIKINI	JAPAN	First half of Jan.	JAVA PORTS	First half of Jan.
TIIMAKI	JAPAN	First half of Jan.	JAVA PORTS	First half of Jan.
TIJIBODAS	JAPAN	First half of Febr.	JAVA PORTS	First half of Febr.
TIULATJAP	JAPAN	First half of Febr.	JAVA PORTS	First half of Febr.
TIJILIWONG	JAVA	First half of Febr.	JAPAN	First half of Febr.
TIJIPANAS	JAVA	Second half of Febr.	JAPAN	Second half of Febr.

The Steamers are all fitted throughout with Electric Light and have accommodation for a limited number of Saloon Passengers, and will take Cargo to all Netherlands-Indian ports en route.

For Particulars of Freight and Passage, apply to the

JAVA-CHINA-JAPAN LIJN.

York Buildings, 1st Floor.

Hongkong, 7th January, 1908.

## Cutler, Palmer &amp; Co.'s

SPECIAL BLEND WHISKY.



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COLD STORAGE.

THE HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD., have now 40,000 Cubic Feet of Cold Storage available at EAST POINT. Stores will be Open at 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. daily, Sunday excepted, to receive and deliver perishable goods.

W. M. PARLAME, Manager.

Hongkong, 18th November, 1901.

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MEMPHIS ON THE CHINA AND JAPAN STATION.

AUSTRIAN.

Kaiser Franz Josef I, Austrian cruiser, 4,309, Capt. Ferdinand Bubla, Northern Waters.

FRENCH.

Allenton, river gunboat, Lieut. Millet, Cochinchina.

Argus, gunboat, 123 tons, guns, 500 h.p.

Lient. Jeannot, Canton.

Caronde, gunboat, Lieut. Kerchoel, Saigon.

Deedee, gunboat, 645 tons, 10 guns, 1,000 h.p.

Lieut. Comdr. E. E. Brinkin, Haiphong.

REDUCED FARES TO STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.

Hongkong to Singapore 1st Class Single \$ 65.

Return \$ 100.

Penang " 65 " 130 "

Calcutta " 165 " 250 "

• These Steamers have superior accommodation for First-Class Passengers and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

Taking Cargo on through bills of lading to Chefoo, Tientsin, via Chingwanluu and Yangtze Ports.

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ESTABLISHED 1841.

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NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN. IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"ZITEN."

having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and/or Godowns of the Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., Kowloon whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before THURSDAY, the 2nd inst., at NOON.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 9th inst., at 9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 13th inst., or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the undersigned.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, MELCHERS &amp; CO., LTD.

Agents.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1901.

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"BARBER" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "ST. PATRICK"

FROM NEW YORK AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Ltd., Kowloon whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 11th inst., will be subject to rate.

All Claims against the Steamers must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 31st inst., or they will not be recognised.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 11th inst., at 10 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

